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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/723,085	11/26/2003	Joseph S. Glider	ARC920030081US1	7870
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03/04/2008				
EXAMINER				
WEI, ZHENG				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/723,085

Applicant(s)

GLIDER ET AL.

Examiner

ZHENG WEI

Art Unit

2192

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-11, 13 and 15-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-11, 13 and 15-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Remarks

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 11/20/2007.
2. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13 and 15-19 have been amended.
3. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13 and 15-19 remain pending and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 11/20/2007, in particular on pages 9-13, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. For example:
 - At page 9, section I, second paragraph, the Applicant submits that nothing within Moore teaches or suggests that the software understand both old and new persistent data structure formats. Instead, Moore merely discloses converting data to the 'new version format' if the system is upgraded. *However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees. As the Applicant admitted, Moore discloses converting data to the "new version format". This discourse also indicates that Moore's application/software has to understand both old and new persistent data structure formats in order to perform data conversion from old format to new format. Therefore, Moore does disclose cited limitation as Applicant addressed above in claims 1, 7, 13 and 15.*
 - At page 11, second paragraph, the Applicant submits that nothing within Moore teaches downgrading software that "understands both old and new persistent data structure formats" in independent claims 1, 7, 13 and 15.

Instead, Moore merely discloses installing new application software or hardware when the system is downgraded.

However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees.

As Moore disclosed in Fig.3, step 112 about converting data (new version) to old version during downgrade process and related text description in the specification (see for example, paragraph [0023]), it clearly indicates that Moore's application/software has to understand both old version and new version data structure formats in order to perform data conversion from current version/new version to old version during downgrade process. Therefore, Moore does disclose said limitation as cited in claims 1, 7, 13 and 15.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 2-5, 8-11 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2, 8 and 16:

Claims 2, 8 and 16 recite the limitation "the limitations" at page 3, 4 and 7 respectively. There are insufficient antecedent basis for these limitations in the claims.

Claims 3-5, 9-11 and 17-19:

These claims depend on claims 2, 8 and 16 respectively. Therefore, they are also rejected for the same reason.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claim 1-5, 7-11, 13 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moore (Moore et al., US 2003/0092438) in the view of Sinander (Niklas Sinander, US 6,385,770 B1) in further view of Schroder (Schroder et al., US 7,107,329 B1)

Claim 1, 7, 13 and 15:

Moore discloses a method and apparatus for revising a software application used by a plurality of nodes in a computer network, wherein said software application utilizes persistent data, said method comprising:

- Applying an upgrade to a next level of software (see for example, Fig.4, step 118-120, UPGRADE and related text)
- Converting all persistent data structures to new version format (see for example, Fig.4, step 120 CONVERT STAE DATA TO NEW VERSION FORMAT and related text)
- Applying a downgrade to a previous level of software. (see for example, Fig.3, items 102 and related text)

- Converting all persistent data structures into the old persistent data structure format. (see for example Fig.3, item 112 and related text)
- Applying a downgrade to a second previous level of software that understands said old persistent data structure formats. (Fig.4, items 116-122)

But does not explicitly disclose about two-level software upgrading. However, Sinander in the same analogous art of software upgrade discloses a method and system for upgrading a software application utilizes all kinds of data, said method and system comprising:

- Applying an upgrade to a first part of an upgrade framework to upgrade system software; (Col 3, Lines 54-58)
- Executing a plurality of upgrade contents to convert data structure; (Col2, Lines 6-16)
- Applying an upgrade to a second part of the upgrade frame to upgrade system software; (Col 3, Lines 54-58)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Sinander's upgrade method combine with Moore's software upgrade/downgrade method. One would have been motivated to integrate Sinander's upgrade method to Moore's upgrade method as suggested by Sinander (see for example, ABSTRACT, "The invention allows to upgrade a software system in a real-time environment using a source system operating with an old software version and a target system for operating with the new software version and allows to handle static as well as dynamic data").

But neither of them further discloses both upgrade processes and both downgrade processed occur without disruption of communication between said nodes. However, Schroder in the same analogous art of upgrading software of network nodes discloses a method for updating routers (nodes) software in network without traffic interruption (see for example, Fig.1B, the upgrade process

by using "hot swap" implementation, "Before Upgrade", During Upgrade", "After Upgrade" and related text).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Moore and Sinander's method to prepare new software information including revisions and upgrades as address above and further use Schroder's method to swap the original and upgraded software in the node without service disruption. One would have been motivated to do so to support network node software/firmware upgrade without traffic interruption as suggested by Schroder (see for example, col.2, lines 18-24, "after such preparing of the new software information, swapping the same for the original software data routing along said path without interruption, and imperceptibly to all the other router nodes in the router system")

Claim 2, 8 and 16:

Sinander, Moore and Schroder disclose a system and method to upgrade software application utilizes persistent data as in claims 1, 7, and 15 above, but does not explicitly disclose that the persistent data structures comprise communication packet structures. However, Sinander further discloses the system and method for software upgrade could be used in a real time application of telecommunications network (Col1, Line41-44) and switch communication links (Col2, Line36). That would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at time the invention was made to understand that these networks, like ATM, IP networks use packet (ATM cells or IP packet) for communication based on different kinds of network protocols. Therefore, one would have been motivated to use persistent data structure to represent the packet structure in software programming in order to make software implementation simpler and easier.

Claim 3, 9 and 17:

Sinander, Moore and Schroder disclose a system and method to upgrade software application as in claims 2, 8 and 16 above and Sinander further discloses that the distributed system including a plurality of nodes (Co.10, lines 47-50, "In case the source system is operating a mobile telephone network, the devices may be mobile telephones or nodes of the network.") holding non-volatile memory data structure. (Col.6, lines 36-48),

Claims 4, 10 and 18:

Sinander, Moore and Schroder disclose a system and method to upgrade software application as in claims 3, 9 and 17 above and Sinander also discloses that said nodes communicate with one another. (Col.10, lines 47-50, "In case the source system is operating a mobile telephone network, the devices may be mobile telephones or nodes of the network."). Therefore, it is obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art at time the invention was made to understand that the "mobile telephone or nodes of the network" can communicate to each other.

Claims 5, 11 and 19:

Sinander, Moore and Schroder disclose a system and method to upgrade software application as in claims 4, 10 and 18 above and Sinander further discloses that said nodes communicate with one another. (Col.10, lines 47-50, "In case the source system is operating a mobile telephone network, the devices may be mobile telephones or nodes of the network."). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at time the invention was made to understand that said nodes, like mobile telephones or nodes in networks can use communication packet to communicate between each other.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims rejection have been considered but are not persuasive. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zheng Wei whose telephone number is (571) 270-1059 and Fax number is (571) 270-2059. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-15:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3695. The

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is 571- 272-1000.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ZW

/Tuan Q. Dam/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192